है और मैं चाहती हूं कि राज्य सरकारें अपनी-अपनी जिम्मेदारी उठाएं और जो काम वे आंगनवाड़ी से हटकर उनसे ले रही हैं, उसका पैसा उनको देना चाहिए। यह मेरा प्रयास है कि वह हम उनसे दिलाएं।

श्री सभापति: क्वैश्चन नंबर 144 प्लीज।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: उनको सरकारी कर्मचारी घोषित किया जाएगा या नहीं?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: हम ऑनरेरियम लेते हैं तो कर्मचारी कहां से माना जाएगा। सर, इस बारे में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का भी एक ऑर्डर है कि हम इन को कर्मचारी नहीं मान सकते। ... (**व्यवधान**)... माननीय सदस्य अपने इलाके में प्रयास कर के आंगनवाड़ी वर्कर्स को राज्य सरकार से पैसा दिलाएं।

श्री सभापति: क्वैश्चन नंबर 144.

UN report on malnutrition and child mortality

*144. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:††
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a UN report released says that malnutrition and child mortality continues to endanger the lives of children in the country and accounts for 50 per cent death of under five children and is also responsible for the low weight among children;

(b) whether, according to report the country has to reach the Millennium Development Goal of 38 by 2015, the average annual rate of reduction in the next nine years has to be about 7.6 per cent;

(c) if so, the other main points mentioned in the UN report; and

(d) the steps being considered for implementation of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report titled "Progress for Children", No.6, December, 2007, under five mortality rate in 2006 was 76 per thousand live births in the country.

The child mortality is not responsible for the low weight among children. Early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies, poor health of pregnant ladies and malnutrition result in low birth weight of the new borns. Improper and poor breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

(b) Yes, as per the report, the country has to reach the Millennium Development Goals target of under five mortality rate upto 38 per thousand live births by 2015 and accordingly the average annual rae of reduction has to be 7.6 percent during the period of 2007—2015.

(c) The UNICEF report highlights the country specific Millennium Development Goals (MDG), their targets and the progress made by different countries. It also stresses the need to accelerate the progress in the following areas:

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Supriya Sule.

* MDG 1-Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger.
* MDG 2-Achieve Universal Primary Education.
* MDG 3-Promte Gender Equality and empower Women.
* MDG 4-Reduce Child Mortality.
* MDG 5-Improve Maternal Health.
* MDG 6-Combate HIV and AIDs, Malaria and other Diseases.
* MDG 7- Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

(d) The recommendations of the report include that nutrition must be given higher priority in national development if the MDGs are to be achieved. The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and is implementing a number of schemes in the country, which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women & children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDC) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS includes:

* The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.
* The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1 to Rs.2/- per beneficiary per day.
* From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.
* Constant emphasis on States to:
* Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms.
* Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.
* Generate Nutrition Awareness.

(ii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) [Department of School Education & Literacy];

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(v) Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) including (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

* Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of Ante Natal Care (ANC), skilled care to pregnant women, Post-partum care at Community level.

* Immunization.
* Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.
* Emphasis on Infant and Young Child Feeding.
* Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation for preschool children, pregnant and lactating women.

(vi) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

(vii) Targetted Public Distribution System (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(viii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme/Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign; National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Sir, I would first like to congratulate the Ministry for all efforts they are making towards the children and women of this country. I would just like to know that considering the fact that you have made so much efforts and such good schemes, why we do not still see much convergence in Departments at the local level especially to set that there is an uninterrupted food supply in all the Anganwadis. How do you see to address that issue and especially can we get a uniform programme for the entire country which will probably make sure that the food reaches all our children in Anganwadis at the same time?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Thank you, Supriya Suleji, Sir, I really thank the hon. Members for addressing this issue on child malnutrition. I think it is something of collective shame for us that in such a growth oriented country we still have malnutrition as an issue that we need to address. Child malnutrition arises because of several factors and reasons and the hon. Member is absolutely right in saying that there has been some confusion in the clarity what needs to be given, what kind of food needs to be given to children and there have been various interpretations of this. May I give an assurance that this is being set right in the very near future? In our recast of ICDS, we are looking at these issues and we will ensure that there is a uniform policy to be implemented across the country, in all the various States, under the guidance of the Centre to ensure that even the youngest beneficiary, even the pre-born child in womb, benefit from this scheme as it should.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Sir, my second question is this. What are the views of the Government on the fortification of food?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Absolutely right, that is the one question that we need to address 'yesterday' as the language goes. Fortification is something that we need to look at because it is an area that we have not really applied out mind to. The only way to go forward is to fortify the food that reaches our poor because nutritional awareness is very, very poor. As a challenge, I would request, through you, if all the Members go for a nutritional check-up, which I can organise, we will find that even 50 per cent of the House will not be nutritionally sufficient. ...(*Interruptions*)... Yes, we have mal-absorption. I think fluoride water creates mal-absorption. We have hookworm disease because hookworm infestation gives mal-absorption. Cooking in

aluminium pots and what you cook in aluminium pots and how you cook in aluminium pots are also contributing towards malnutrition. But the most shocking factor is that there is very poor awareness about nutrition. Generally, there is no awareness and processing does not mean always a bad word but nutritionally fortifying makes a common sense.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in a report she has stated that in nutritional programme ICDS scheme has been highly relied upon. In fact, there is an order and the Government also agreed for universalisation of having an Anganwadi centre in all the settlements. My question to the hon. Minister is this. In view of the scant allocation in this year's Budget for this scheme, what is the time frame of having Anganwadi centres in all the settlements? What is the time frame of ensuring the apparatus scheme, that is Anganwadi workers and helpers, getting a human level of be it honorarium or whatever term you give, because it is your choice and you name it honorarium not the workers? What is the time frame of ensuring a human level of honorarium or any kind of payment from the present level which even despite your 50 per cent hike in their honorarium in this year's Budget is much below even the 50 per cent of the benchmark of payment of minimum wages in the country. What is the time frame for that? I think, both are important in making the programme a real success.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I detect a certain cynicism in addressing issues about what we have been doing. You must appreciate that it is the Government of India that has taken and has the spread and the reach, and, today if at all we are sustainable it is because of Government's intervention and because of the spread that we have done of Anganwadis. Now, Anganwadi on demand can only be increased in a phased manner, you will appreciate, if we want it to be an effective intervention. Do you just want me to say that we will do it across the country and not be accountable for the results? You will also appreciate that the money is sent to the State Government and besides our directives, we have very little control. We are looking at universalising the Anganwadis and the childcare across the country. It will be done. But, I also will be bringing a revised form of the ICDS so that we can have a much better system, as I have said earlier addressing questions. As for the honorariums, I think, hon. Member, you are experienced enough. I didn't hear a resonance of saying, appreciating, that we have raised it by 50 per cent. I think, the State Governments must now come on board to partner because, after all, they are the ones who are taking the services and the benefits of the Anganwadi teachers and helpers and you must join me in putting the pressure on State Governments to pay for whatever service they are taking from the Anganwadis. I hope you will appreciate that we have brought out a welfare scheme; we have brought out insurance schemes.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: But, still the time frame...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No please, no further questions.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am not putting any further questions. I am on the same question. What is the time frame of universalisation, having a centre in all settlements? Even in the revised structure I don't mind...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: we are going to have 14 lakh Anganwadis in the near future and after that in a phased manner we will be approaching. I will give you a written statement if you want.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I will raise my pointed question based on (b) and (c). Part (b) says that for the MDG *i.e.* Millennium Development Goal, the requirement is average annual rate of reduction has to be 7.6 per cent from 2007—2015. I would like to know whether it has been achieved. If not, how do we overcome this less achievement in future years. What is the programme of the Government? Similarly, to achieve full MDG, the recommendation by UNICEF report highlights many programmes. It is from 1 to 7. By when will these programmes be really achieved? What steps are being taken by different departments?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY Sir, the MDG goals have come under heads. The different areas of growth and development that we look at under the MDG, most of the goals, are well on track and we are heading towards achieving them. The two areas that we are lagging behind is the infant mortality and the maternal mortality and the underfive mortality that we are looking at and as you will appreciate, we have taken interest like never before to ensure that we achieve our goal targets. And, how much time, is something which means we have to be effective in implementing it, not just say it like that. We have been working towards converging all our activities and the Department has developed a new focus to be able to give specific thrust on these areas and a slew of legislations for which we have taken interventions and amended like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act etc. All of these have been put into place. I am confident that in the very near future, this will gather enough momentum for it to carry forward and India will stand tall and equal to the other nations in our MDG development.

प्रदेश के मानदण्डों की अवहेलना

*145. **श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह:** क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान निजी स्कूलों द्वारा बच्चों के प्रवेश के मानदण्डों में के जा रही अवहेलना की ओर गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन स्कूलों के खिलाफ़ अनियमितताओं की शिकायतें मिली हैं तथा उनके खिलाफ क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) शिक्षा एक समवर्ती सूची का विषय है। स्कूल शिक्षा मुख्यत: राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र के सरकारों के क्षेत्राधिकार में है और यह उस पर निर्भर करता है कि वे दाखिला नीति का मॉनीटरन करें। प्राइवेट स्कूलों में दाखिला हेतु मानदण्डों के उल्लंघन संबंधित सूचना केन्द्रीकृत रूप से नहीं रखे जाते हैं। वर्तमान दाखिला सत्र के दौरान दिल्ली प्रशासन के शिक्षा निदेशालय के द्वारा पूर्व-प्राथमिक/पूर्व-स्कूल स्तर पर प्रवेश के मानदण्डों की अवहेलना के संबंध में सिर्फ एक शिकायत प्राप्त हुई, परन्तु जांच के उपरान्त यह शिकायत वास्तविक नहीं पाई गई। पूर्व-प्राथमिक तथा पूर्व-स्कूलों में प्रवेश के संबंध में शिकायतों पर ध्यान देने के लिए दिल्ली के सभी जिलों में मॉनीटरन इकाई का गठन किया गया है।

Violation of admission norms

†*145. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.